

13 AN ACCOUNT

Of a most Dreadful, Sudden and Amazing FIRE; that Un-
fortunately happened near Exeter-Change in the Strand, on Saturday last, about
Midnight, which Burned down & Destroyed above Threescore Dwelling
Houses, besides many other Extremely Damned to the Loss of 80000 l.

With a True List of the Names of those Persons, who suffered most by this sad Calamity.

ON Saturday Night last, being the 14th Instant, about Midnight, a Dreadful
& Amazing FIRE broke out in the Dwelling House of Mr. Thwait, be-
ing the Fountain Tavern in the Strand, & for want of Water (which un-
happily at that time was Turn'd off) the Devouring FLAMES got such a
Terrible Advantage, that several Houses were on Fire, before any Ingins
could be got ready to play against it: insomuch that the Wind being very rough and South-East,
it grew to such Extream Violence, that it Extended its Fury Cross the Street to Bennets-
Court, Marygold-Alley, &c. where meeting with Old Boarded Buildings, the Devouring
Flames Carried all before it, & for 3 Hours together, Burnt without intermission, or any
manner of Obstruction, in regard all that time, little or no Water could be come at, so that
by 5 of the Clock on Sunday Morning (for it was not Extinguished till then) about Threescore
Dwelling Houses were Entirely reduced to heaps of Rubbish.

During which time 'twas impossible to Express the great and amazing Consternation the Ap-
prehension of so Dreadful and Sudden a Calamity, put the Distressed People into, for besides those
whose Houses & Goods that were Consumed by the Flames, above 40 others untouch'd with the
Fire, were so shattered by removing their Goods to avoid this Threatning Fury, that they suf-
fered to an unspeakable Degree, and are in a manner Destroyed, so that 'tis Comput'd that
there is near 80000 l. damage sustain'd by this dreadful Conflagration.

There are various Reports relating to the Unhappy occasion of this Terrible disaster, some
Affirming that 'twas by a Servants leaving a Candle in an Upper Room among some Brush Faggots
others by making too great a Fire in the Nursery Chamber, where it catching some Linnen, the
hung on a Line on a Chimney-piece, set the Wainscot on Fire & so broke out. But most agree in
this, that it was occasioned by the Carelessness of a Maid Servant, who being newly come to the
House, was so disorder'd with strong Liquors, that she fell asleep in the Garret, & let the Candle
Burn, till it fell among the Brush Faggots & other Combustible Stuff, which suddenly set the whole
House in a Flame, so that she narrowly Escaped with her Life.

'Twas impossible in such a Confusion & Disorder, to obtain every particular Circumstance of the
Damage, but I may be so bold to Affirm, in general Terms, it was the most Extream, Violent &
Amazing FIRE that has happened for many Years past. Most part of Fountain-Court is intirely
Burnt down or ruin'd, as is also Bennets-Court, Marygold-Ally, on the other side of the Street, with
all or most of the Adjacent Houses, whose Unfortunate Owners or Inhabitants Names, are contain-
ed in the following List.

Mr. Thwait, at the Fountain,	Mr. Bransdon, Tobacconist,	Mr. Archibald, at the Unicorn,
Mr. Kents, a Chandler,	Mr. Smith, at the 2 Blew Posts,	Mr. Walkers, a Glazier,
Mr. Shanks House,	Mr. Heven's, a Taylor,	Mr. Andrews, at the Horse-Moor,
Mr. Eaton, a Barber,	Mr. Wynns, a Taylor,	Mr. Murrey's, a Sea-Captain,
A Silversmiths House & Shop,	Mr. Randal's, Pewterer,	Mr. Eaton,
Mr. Stapleton's,	Mr. Williams, a Cook,	Mr. Winters, a Patten Shop,
Mr. Cook, a Draper,	Mr. Leak, at the Rose & Crown,	

Besides those Houses Fronting on both sides the Street, there are near three times as many backwards to
wards the Savoy, & on the other side the Street, even to the Upper-End of Marygold-Alley, & Bennets-Court
burnt down to the Ground. The Houses shattered & almost ruin'd (tho' not burnt) are Mr. Langton's the
Tallow-Chandler, a Tobacconist, Mr. Cooper's a Brandy-shop, Mr. Penberton's a Card-maker, & many others
beside those above mention'd. There are several Persons mising, who 'tis fear'd Expir'd in the Unmerciful Flames
besides many Firemen & others dangerously Wounded by the Fall of Stacks of Chimneys, & the like.

'Twas most Dreadful to Observe, y^e several substantial Families who on Saturday Evening were Worth
Thousand of Pounds, were before Sunday Morning Reduced to such Necessity by this sad Disaster, that
have not so much as a Bed to lie on, or Money to buy Bread for the support of their Distressed Families.

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